

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 XMB-02

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R 190945Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9129

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR STROBEL AND PENCE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BGEN, EFIN, IR

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR ECONOMIC AND  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF MIDDLE EAST

1. AGATTACHE AND EC/C OFFICERS HAVE MET WITH DR. ASADOLAZADEH OF "INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF MIDDLE EAST." SUBJECT STATES THIS "COMPANY" PLANS TO EXPORT CRUDE PETROLEUM FOR NIOC AND IMPORT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UNDER SOME SORT OF BARTER ARRANGEMENT. HE WANTED IMMEDIATE OFFERS 250,000 TONS RICE, 50,000 TONS CHICKEN AND 25,000 TONS BUTTER FOR DELIVERY OVER SIX-MONTH PERIOD.

2. HE UNABLE SUPPLY REFERENCES OR OFFICE ADDRESS EXCEPT P.O. BOX NUMBER. HIS "INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM" UNKNOWN TO GOI'S FOREIGN TRANSACTION COMPANY OR MEAT ORGANIZATION. WE HAVE NO WTD ON "INTERNATIOAL CONSORTIUM" ET AL. LATTER AGENCIES INDICATE THERE IS NO RPT NO CHANGE IN BUYING POLICY CONTEMPLATED TO PERMIT PRIVATE TRADE IMPORTATION OF CHICKEN OR RICE.

3. ATTACHE ROUTINELY SUPPLIED POULTRY AND RICE TRADE LISTS AND BELIEVES FIRM MAY CONTACT U.S. EXPORTERS.

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4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH E/C OFFICERS, DR.

ASADOLAZADEH WANTED INFORMATION ON HOW TO SET UP AN OFF-SHORE BANK IN NASSAU BUT WAS VAGUE ON DETAILS. WHEN TOLD THE USG WAS NOT THE BEST SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ON BANKING IN THE BAHAMAS, ASADOLAZADEH, THROUGH HIS ENGLISH-SPEAKING ESCORT, ASKED ABOUT SETTING UP A NEW BANK IN U.S., EITHER JOINT VENTURE OR FOREIGN OWNED. WHEN GUIDED TO LOCAL EXPERTISE (I.E., U.S. JOINT VENTURE BANKS), HE SAID THE SUBJECT WAS TOO SENSITIVE; HE WANTED THE OFF-SHORE BANK TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR DOCUMENTING HIS OIL SALES AND IMPORT ACTIVITY. IT WAS THEN SUGGESTED HE CONTACT CORPORATE LAWYERS IN NEW YORK EITHER DIRECTLY OR ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE IRANIAN CONSUL GENERAL THERE. HIS EXPRESSED DISINCLINATION TO DEAL WITH IRANIAN AUTHORITIES ON WHAT WOULD NOT ON SURFACE BE AN ILLEGAL ACTION, SUPPORTED EMBOFFS' IMPRESSION THAT ASADOLAZADEH'S BONA FIDES SHOULD BE CLOSELY EXAMINED IF ANYONE CONTEMPLATE-ING BUSINESS WITH HIM.

5. WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT SUBJECT FIRM, IF IT IS A FIRM, WILL BE ABLE TO SECURE ANY QUANTITIES OF CRUDE FROM NIOC FOR EXPORT. QUANTITIES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES SOUGHT PARA ONE ABOVE SEEM UNREALISTICALLY HIGH. WHILE DR. ASADOLAZADEH AND HIS "INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM" MAY BE LEGITIMATE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ANY U.S. FIRMS CONTACTED BY HIM TREAT WITH CAUTION. ANY TRANSACTION WITH HIM SHOULD BE ON A FULLY SECURED BASIS.  
HELMS

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## Message Attributes

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